IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Litster, G. et al.
Serial No.:	to be established
Filed:	17 September 2001
For:	VIRTUAL CREDIT CARD TERMINAL AND METHOD OF TRANSACTION
Examiner:	to be established
Art Unit:	to be established
Docket No.:	57046-1
Date:	17 September 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a Preliminary Amendment to accompany the above-identified U.S. Utility Patent Application, entitled VIRTUAL CREDIT CARD TERMINAL AND METHOD OF TRANSACTION. Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel original claims 1-12, and, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 121(c), substitute therefore new claims 13-24 as follows:

"Clean" set of proposed claims:

We claim:

13.   (New) A method of making a financial transaction over the internet comprising:

electing, by a purchaser, to pay for selected items from a merchant by credit card means using a virtual credit card terminal (VCT) comprising credit card means reader, a digital processing device operatively associated with said credit card means reader and encoding transaction programs that allows opening of an interactive terminal window for processing of the transaction, and wherein said virtual credit card terminal is registered with a VCT gateway;

providing the purchaser with a transaction number from said VCT gateway, a merchant identification and an amount to transact from the merchant, wherein said merchant is registered with said VCT gateway;

entering, by the purchaser, details of credit card means into the virtual credit card terminal to facilitate formation of a VCT transaction request;

sending the VCT transaction request to said VCT gateway;

processing the VCT transaction request by the VCT gateway to facilitate formation of a bank transaction request ;

sending the bank transaction request from the VCT gateway to a bank;

processing the bank transaction request, whereby advice is sent from the bank to the VCT gateway as to whether the transaction has been approved; and

sending the advice from the VCT gateway to the merchant and the purchaser.

14.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 1, further comprising, if the transaction has been approved, providing the merchant and the purchaser with a transaction authentication code.

15.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 2, further comprising: providing, by said purchaser, the merchant with delivery details; and providing, by said merchant, said purchaser with a merchant receipt.

16.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the merchant obtains the transaction number from said VCT gateway and then provides it to the purchaser.

17.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the virtual credit card terminal is remote from a location where the merchant's items are physically displayed for sale.

18.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the virtual credit card terminal is set up at a retail outlet of the merchant.

19.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the credit card means is a credit card with a data encoded magnetic strip, and wherein entering details of the credit card means occurs by passing the credit card through the credit card means reader and separately entering an assigned personal identification number.

20.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 7, wherein said digital processing device includes a screen, processor and a key pad.

21.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 7, wherein said digital processing device is an internet-connected telephone, personal digital assistant, pager, communicator, smartphone, an interactive television, or an interactive household appliance.

22.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 9,

wherein the credit card means reader is operationally associated with an individual digital

processing device by a digital certificate which is used in each transaction.

23.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in

any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the VCT gateway is a stand–alone server or a server that is part

of an electronic data processing section of a bank, credit provider, or other financial institution.

24.   (New) The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in

any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein processing of the VCT transaction request by the VCT gateway

involves representing information but not analyzing information for transaction approval purposes.
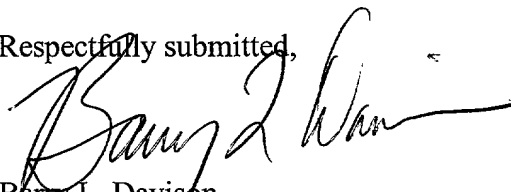
REMARKS

Applicants hereby cancel originally-filed claims 1-12, and substitute therefore the <u>new</u> claims 13-24. New claims 13-24 correspond to originally-filed claims 1-12, respectively. Applicants have attached hereto, to facilitate the Examiner's considerations, "Appendix A" that contains "marked-up" versions of the claims 1-12 as originally filed, and which have been amended to eliminate excessive (redundant) text, and re-presented here as "new" claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of all pending, new claims 13-24 of the present U.S. Utility Patent Application. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

("Marked-up" claims, corresponding to the originally filed claims 1-12, which have been submitted as new claims to eliminate excessive text)

We claim:

13 (New; original claim 1).   A method of making a financial transaction over the internet [including] comprising:

[election] electing, by [the] a purchaser, to pay for selected items from a merchant by credit card means using a virtual credit card terminal (VCT) [, said virtual credit card terminal includes] comprising credit card means reader, a digital processing device operatively associated with said credit card means reader and encoding transaction programs that allows opening of an interactive terminal window for processing of the transaction, and wherein said virtual credit card terminal is registered with a VCT gateway;

providing the purchaser with a transaction number from said VCT gateway, a merchant identification and an amount to transact from the merchant, wherein said merchant is registered with said VCT gateway;

entering, by the purchaser, [enters] details of credit card means into the virtual credit card terminal [and forms] to facilitate formation of a VCT transaction request;

sending the VCT transaction request to said VCT gateway;

processing the VCT transaction request by the VCT gateway [and forming] to facilitate formation of a bank transaction request ;

sending the bank transaction request from the VCT gateway to a bank;

processing the bank transaction request, whereby [and sending] advice is sent from the bank to the VCT gateway as to whether the transaction has been approved; and

sending the advice from the VCT gateway to the merchant and the purchaser [whether the

transaction has been approved].

14 (New; original claim 2).   The [A] method of making a financial transaction over the

internet of claim 1, further [including] comprising, if the transaction has been approved, providing

the merchant and the purchaser with a transaction authentication code.

[election by the purchaser to pay for selected items from a merchant by credit card means

using a virtual credit card terminal (VCT), said virtual credit card terminal includes credit card

means reader, a digital processing device operatively associated with said credit card means reader

and encoding transaction programs that allows opening of an interactive terminal window for

processing of the transaction, said virtual credit card terminal is registered with VCT gateway;

providing the purchaser with a transaction number from said VCT gateway, merchant

identification and amount to transact from the merchant, said merchant is registered with said

VCT gateway;

the purchaser enters details of credit card means into the virtual credit card terminal and

forms a VCT transaction request;

sending the VCT transaction request to said VCT gateway;

processing the VCT transaction request by the VCT gateway and forming a bank transaction

request ;

sending the bank transaction request from the VCT gateway to a bank;

processing of the bank transaction request and sending advice from the bank to the VCT

gateway whether the transaction has been approved; and

sending advice from the VCT gateway to the merchant and the purchaser whether the

transaction has been approved, wherein if the transaction has been approved providing the

merchant and the purchaser with a transaction authentication code.]

15 (New; original claim 3).   [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the

internet of claim 2, further [including] comprising: providing, by said purchaser, the merchant with delivery details; and providing, by said merchant, said purchaser with a merchant receipt.

[election by the purchaser to pay for selected items from a merchant by credit card means using a virtual credit card terminal (VCT), said virtual credit card terminal includes credit card means reader, a digital processing device operatively associated with said credit card means reader and encoding transaction programs that allows opening of an interactive terminal window for processing of the transaction, said virtual credit card terminal is registered with VCT gateway;

providing the purchaser with a transaction number from said VCT gateway, merchant identification and amount to transact from the merchant, said merchant is registered with said VCT gateway;

the purchaser enters details of credit card means into the virtual credit card terminal and forms a VCT transaction request;

sending the VCT transaction request to said VCT gateway;
processing the VCT transaction request by the VCT gateway and forming a bank transaction request ;

sending the bank transaction request from the VCT gateway to a bank;

processing of the bank transaction request and sending advice from the bank to the VCT gateway whether the transaction has been approved; and

sending advice from the VCT gateway to the merchant and the purchaser whether the transaction has been approved, wherein if the transaction has been approved providing the purchaser and the merchant with a transaction authentication code, said purchaser provides the merchant with delivery details, said merchant provides purchaser with a merchant receipt.]

16 (New; original claim 4).   [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the merchant obtains the transaction

number from said VCT gateway and then provides it to the purchaser.

17 (New; original claim 5).   [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the virtual credit card terminal is remote from a location where the merchant's items are physically displayed for sale.

18 (New; original claim 6).   [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the virtual credit card terminal is set up at [the merchant's] a retail outlet of the merchant.

19 (New; original claim 7).   [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the credit card means is a credit card with a data encoded magnetic strip, and wherein entering details of the credit card means [are entered] occurs by passing the credit card through the credit card means reader and separately entering an assigned personal identification number.

20 (New; original claim 8).   [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 7, wherein [as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein credit card means is a credit card with a data encoded magnetic strip, said details of the credit card means are entered by passing the credit card through the credit card means reader and separately entering an assigned personal identification number,]said digital processing device includes a screen, processor and a key pad.

21 (New; original claim 9).   [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 7, wherein [as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein credit card means is a credit card with a data encoded magnetic strip, and details of the credit card means are entered by passing the credit card through the credit card means reader and separately entering an assigned personal identification number,]said digital processing device is an internet-connected telephone, personal digital assistant, pager, communicator, smartphone, an interactive television, or an

interactive household appliance.

22 (New; original claim 10). [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet of claim 9, wherein [as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein credit card means is a credit card with a data encoded magnetic strip, and details of the credit card means are entered by passing the credit card through the credit card means reader and separately entering an assigned personal identification number, said digital processing device is an internet-connected telephone, personal digital assistant, pager, communicator, smartphone, an interactive television, or an interactive household appliance, wherein]the credit card means reader is operationally associated with an individual digital processing device by a digital certificate which is used in each transaction.

23 (New; original claim 11). [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the VCT gateway is a stand – alone server or a server that is part of an electronic data processing section of a bank, credit provider, or other financial institution.

24 (New; original claim 12). [A] The method of making a financial transaction over the internet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein [the] processing of the VCT transaction request by the VCT gateway involves representing information but not analyzing information for transaction approval purposes.